



Kingsleigh Primary School

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Where everyone can be great, not just good!

Dear Parents/Carers

Important Information - Please read

I am writing to thank you, as a school community, for your support and understanding during the current situation affecting schools nationally with regards to confirmed cases of COVID - 19. As I have shared many times, we follow the guidelines set by the government and Public Health England to ensure the school is operating correctly and safely. I have received many positive emails and feedback from parents/carers across the school and from Public Health England, relating to the way we have started the term, set up our class bubbles and managed yesterday's situation. No staff member in this school wants to know that children have to be at home learning and I can guarantee you that no staff member wants to be told that they need to isolate for 14 days either but we all understand that is the situation we find ourselves in.

I know we all have our own views on the government's decision making, handling of the COVID pandemic and rules around schools opening and attendance but it is simply the school's duty to follow the guidance, have the children in school learning and make sure that they are safe and happy. We have, and will continue to prioritise this. To ensure that this remains our focus I am sharing with all parents/carers that a line is being drawn in regards to conversations either in person or via email regarding the content of the guidance or changes they would like to see in it or disagreements that they may have with it.

Public health England complimented us on our approach and shared how we had significantly reduced the potential knock on effects by setting up the class bubbles. **I have made it clear that, in line with the nationwide expectations on isolating, that if there is a potential or confirmed case in a family then all members of that household are required to isolate.** We will not be deviating from the guidance and I ask that you clearly read the it before contacting the school office to discuss your situation. The office staff cannot offer advice on your child's condition and what actions you as parent/carer should take. In the coming days the school answer machine will reflect this content.

Below are some responses that I can provide in a generic form that have been asked of us numerous times today:

- we will not be sharing the names or classes (other than to those impacted) of confirmed cases at any point nor will we be sharing which class/es their siblings are in
- if you are unsure of your child's medical condition please call 111 for advice or 999 in an emergency - the school office staff will not be able to advise you



- we **cannot** authorise any absence for children who are off school because their parents do not feel it is safe for them to be in school. It is a government expectation that children attend school and if a child does not attend for this reason then it will be recorded as unauthorised. If you make this decision for your child we are not able to authorise that decision and therefore we cannot provide work for your child at home
- if your child is unwell with COVID related symptoms or is required to isolate for a period of time then work will be provided for them
- if your child's class is directed to isolate then work and support will be available throughout that period of time
- if your child is sent home to self-isolate they must remain at home and not leave the house for any reason other than an emergency

I have to be really honest and make it clear that this situation and way of school life is not going to change quickly. Nationwide schools will be sending bubbles home to isolate as directed by PHE on a regular basis based on the current guidance. Our systems in school are robust and thorough.

Accompanying this letter is a series of FAQ's that the school office have been asked and the relevant response. The office team will not deviate from these answers as they are based on the published guidance and these are the only answers we are able to give in response.

I now need to ask you for your support to make this manageable for us all. I ask that you read the guidance and allow us to focus on ensuring your children's education is our priority, that we can ensure they are happy and that we can closely monitor all of our systems in place regularly. From walking around the school site it is clear how happy the children are and how they are enjoying being back in school and once again learning alongside their friends. Please help us to focus our energies on this and continue to raise our educational standards at KPS.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Best wishes,

Mr J Lumber
Headteacher
Kingsleigh Primary School

Frequently Asked Questions

My child is not feeling very well should I send them into school?

1, Would you have sent your children to school, feeling as they do, prior to the pandemic?

YES- Go to question two

NO- Keep your child at home.

2, Does your children have one or more of:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

YES- Keep them at home and phone 111 for further advice please do keep us informed.

NO- Send them to school as normal.

I am not sure if I should send my child to school because they have some symptoms etc?

Phone 111 and seek advice but please keep us updated.

My child has got a temperature what should I do?

Please read the NHS Covid symptoms list and if you are worried they show any of these phone 111 to seek their advice.

I have one child who is having to self-isolate and I can't get my other one in to school?

Please make every effort to get the children into school at this is obviously what is best of them but if you really have no alternative they will have to stay at home as well and this will be authorised.

I have a child in a bubble that has been closed can my other child come to this/ other schools?

Yes they can unless anyone in your household displays symptoms in which case you should call 111 and seek their advice.

Someone in my house has Covid symptoms what should I do?

Everyone in the house should self-isolate and you should contact 111 for advice and follow that, please do keep us informed.

I don't think it is safe to send my child to school so will that be authorised and can work be sent home?

No it will not be authorised as the government have deemed it safe to return to school, any absences may lead to a fixed penalty fine or prosecution in line with our school attendance policy. As we cannot authorise it we will not be able to provide work for your child during whatever period of time you decide to keep them at home.

If my child is unwell or isolating will they have work set?

Yes the children who are isolating or off school related to Covid will be provided with work and more information about this will follow shortly.

Can we not contact the school office to ask questions anymore?

Of course you can but we ask that you check the guidance and these FAQs before phoning. We received over 150 phone calls/messages this morning and we all need to work hard to reduce that.